

# Bridgeport Evening Farmer

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## WILSON SUMMONS RAILROAD PRESIDENTS WHEN MANAGERS REFUSE TO MAKE CONCESSIONS; MAY CALL UPON OWNERS; BIG STRIKE SEEMS IMMINENT

### GENERAL STRIKE AT WINCHESTER FACTORY MAY BE CALLED SOON

Mass Meeting of Employees Called For Tonight on Green When Leaders Say Plans Will Be Made For Walkout of All Machinists

Demonstration This Noon Results in Only 100 Quitting Work, Factory Claims, Strike Committee Chairman Says 5,000 Are Out

New Haven, Aug. 17.—Machinists at the Winchester Repeating Arms Co. went on strike this afternoon for the eighth hour day. Their action follows a strike vote that has been taken in every department of the factory during the last few weeks.

Harry Houson, chairman of the strike committee, told The Farmer this afternoon that 5,000 machine workers, including 2,500 specialists are out. He declared a big demonstration occurred during the noon hour outside the plant.

An official statement from the Winchester factory this afternoon says: "At the outside, 400 are on strike. After a careful count we have figured that the excessive absentees number in the neighborhood of 400, not counting six who are on leave of absence. From an observation of the situation, we should say the strike was a fizzle."

Chairman Houson declared shortly before press hour today: "The strike was called for 12 o'clock, and at 1 o'clock I estimated that 5,000 failed to respond to the factory whistles. In the morning officials of the plant went among the men and threatened to lock the doors against them if they talked strike."

"Some gauge makers joined us, which was unexpected."

"There will be a big mass meeting tonight on the Green, when plans will be made for tomorrow, when more are expected to leave."

A strike of union metal workers who, during a campaign by organizers of the machinists' International union, covering many months, have been holding meetings and open air gatherings in advocacy of the eight-hour day, has been expected from time to time. No strike of consequence materialized although the late winter a number of metal workers left their work.

The explanation given by the leaders was that the strike is a premature one in that the strike movement was to have been a concerted one under the lead of Bridgeport machinists. There are about 2,500 machinists among the 18,000 employees.

The labor men expect other metal workers to act sympathetically with the machinists. Thomas J. Savage, of the executive board of the machinists' union, reached here last night to assume charge of the situation.

In his initial statement today, without mentioning what the machinists seek, he said that efforts to "avert cessation of work had failed" because "the company took the position that there is nothing to give and nothing to arbitrate."

The shop committee stated that at the conference with company officials they were asked to sign a paper on which there were two questions, in brief, whether they were satisfied with conditions as they exist and whether they could continue at work if conditions were not changed. Those who answered in the negative, may they were discharged.

The concessions asked of the company in short were: An eight-hour day with overtime as time and a half; wages to be increased so that there was no change in that respect with lessened hours; the company to adjust grievances through a shop committee; no discrimination against the shop committee members; discharge of an employee to be explained in plain English.

The company replying in a formal statement said that the committee representing itself as from the employees (Continued on Page Two.)

### HOMES AND SAVINGS OF STRIKING MOLDERS ARE ATTACHED BY FOUNDRIES

Alleging conspiracy on the part of Local No. 10, International Molders of North America, suits for \$200,000 damages have been brought by the Monumental Bronze Co., the Bridgeport Deoxidized Bronze Co., the Manufacturers' Iron Foundry and the Pequonnock Foundry, Inc., against officials and members of the local. Deputy Sheriff Cunningham has been busy for two days attaching real estate and money in local banks belonging to members of the union. The four suits are returnable to the superior court, September term.

It is claimed by the manufacturers that members of the union employed at the four foundries demanded certain changes in wages and conditions during July and the early part of this month. When their demands were refused the employees stopped work and threatened to stop the operation of the factories, the complaint states.

The manufacturers' Foundry suits the following men: Michael Smith, John Basista, Frank Kocsic and Arnold Fabian.

Meanwhile strikes at these foundries confident of winning despite the law suits.

These actions follow along the lines of the suits brought several years ago against members of the United Hatters of North America by Danbury hat manufacturers. In these suits it was alleged that union members had conspired to boycott the concerns and the cases were taken by appeal to the United States supreme court where the manufacturers won. Large sums of money deposited by union members in various banks were attached and some of the men lost their homes by attachment.

At the headquarters of the Molders' union today it was said Business Agent O'Leary is out of town for several days and is not expected to return until Saturday.

The strikes at the factories, the officials of whom have brought suit against the Molders, were the opening movement of a demand for better working conditions or a general strike of molders throughout Bridgeport and vicinity. Business Agent O'Leary, who formulated the demands presented by the union to the manufacturers, declared recently that wages, hours and working conditions for the molders generally are much better in other parts of New England than in Bridgeport and vicinity.

### G-1, REPUTED BEST OF SUBS, HAS ACCIDENT

Former "Seal" Abandons Tests With New Apparatus as Diving Plank Breaks.

(Special to The Farmer.) New York, Aug. 17.—The United States submarine G-1, the only craft in the United States which will have a gyroscopic stabilizer, has met with an accident which will delay her trials in Long Island Sound.

A pair of diving rudders which were made especially for the vessel at the Brooklyn navy yard, cracked, and new ones will have to be cast before the undersea boat can be made ready for tests.

The G-1 was built in Bridgeport under the name "Seal." It is the first submarine ever fitted with "torpedo tubes" that could be trained to fire to either broadside. All other United States submarines must manoeuvre to bring the axes of the ship in line with the target before firing. The manoeuvring is very apt to betray the position of the submarine's periscope when moving through the water. Incidentally the G-1 is the only United States submarine known to have a diving compartment, among the first to be fitted with a "drop-keel" and holds the submergence depth record. It is the last boat to pass acceptance tests by the United States government, and as far as can be ascertained aside from the secrecy maintained by its builders and government officials has never been surpassed by modern boats.

Prices for north seas, Thrall and Caddo light crabs were cut 10 cents a barrel to 95 cents.

### POOR ILL CARED FOR HERE, SAYS HEALTH EXPERT

Planning Public Welfare Department Where No Questions Will Be Asked.

### MONEY READY FOR GETTING A START

Criticises System of Inquiry Applicants For Treatment Suffer.

The best obtainable medical treatment and medical advice for the poor, at municipally-owned clinics and a city hospital where it will be assumed that the applicant is honest, will be afforded in Bridgeport if the plans of Dr. Abraham Sophian are carried out.

"The poor have no place to go in Bridgeport," said Dr. Sophian this morning. "It is the duty of the city to provide for them."

In discussing his plans Dr. Sophian criticised the system of inquiry that is in use at the emergency hospital in this city, where the entire history and business of an applicant is drawn from him before treatment will be given, even in urgent cases.

At the same time, he declared that the charities department's name should be changed, because it is not charity to care for the poor. He declared that the health and charities department should be merged into a public welfare department, the duty of which would be to afford medical and other aid to those who can't afford to pay for it or can afford to pay little.

He commended the editorial stand of The Farmer that Bridgeport should apply itself to lessening the infant mortality by an intelligent expenditure of funds now used in more or less efficient manner.

"The poor of Bridgeport have no place to go," said Dr. Sophian. "Bridgeport should have supplied adequate facilities for them long ago."

"The facilities will be provided now, and you believe me, when the plans are carried out, the infant mortality here will drop like a shot. That has been the experience of other cities."

"There should be no charities department. The name conveys a false impression. There should be a public welfare department, combining the functions of the two."

"The people of Bridgeport had raised \$75,000 to be expended on clinics. Whether or not this will be enough, I don't know, but I do know that if it isn't, and the need of the changes is sufficiently understood, the people will not hesitate to give more."

"The clinics should be established in a central structure, containing the public welfare department. In charge will be a man who understands the bacteriological treatment, skin disease treatment and venereal disease treatment. The physicians will be men who are thoroughly proficient. They will be the best men obtainable, who will serve the city without pay."

"When they are established, the clinics will make the infant mortality rate drop. For instance, now, the child of poor parents, when taken ill with diarrhoea often gets no treatment because the parents are too poor to get a doctor. They wait until the child is in the last stages, then they have to get a physician or let the child die."

"With the clinics available, where the poor will be welcomed, where no questions will be asked, treatment will be given while the illness is curable. It is perfectly easy then. You will find the infant mortality will decline greatly."

"It will be the same with tuberculosis. Every person who applies at the city dispensary for treatment or medicine will be examined and his case will be followed up later at the home. Thus, if there is an incipient case of tuberculosis, it will be checked. Preventative measures, not curative, are the solution of the mortality problem."

"It will be the same with skin diseases and venereal diseases. There is no proper city aid for sufferers with these ailments now. Ignorance is responsible for a large majority of the cases. Education is the solution. This can be supplied at the clinics."

"I am not in sympathy with the system of inquiry in public welfare departments. It should be assumed that all who ask for treatment or advice are honest. As a rule, anyway, those who can afford private treatment will seek it."

"There is no doubt that Bridgeport will get these things. The money for giving the start is ready. Private persons who thoroughly understand the need of them have volunteered to supply the money that will be needed for the study of the best institutions in the country, and hiring the best architect obtainable."

"Now is the time to put health matters on an efficient basis."

No new cases were reported today. Quarantines were released at 321 Lenox avenue, 82 Poplar street and 1080 Oarden street.

### PRIZE POULTRY POISONED; MAN HELD FOR TRIAL

Morris Farm Loses Many Valuable Fowl Through Agency of Paris Green.

### BELIEVE MAN GAVE POISON IN REVENGE

Many Other Birds Still In Danger of Death From Arsenical Poison.

A discharged employe of the famous Morris chicken farm of Nichols, which raises nothing but show birds and pedigreed laying fowl, is charged with having distributed paris green among the 1,000 birds in the pens.

The poison, to which chickens are attracted on account of its color and flavor, is said by the deputy sheriffs and state police engaged in the inquiry, to have resulted in the death of 87 birds, valued at more than \$1,500 by their owner, Robert Morris.

The powder was distributed during the night of Monday. The death rate on Tuesday was comparatively light. There was a higher ratio yesterday and it is expected from the condition of the remaining birds that nearly three-quarters of the great flock will succumb within the next three days. In this event the loss will total nearly \$3,000.

As a result of investigation by Deputy Sheriff Frank Olmstead, A. L. French, Sheriff Simeon Pease and State Policeman Frank Virelli, Charles Zimmerman, aged 29, a former employe of the Morris farm was placed under arrest and is said to have admitted after several hours' questioning that the wholesale poisoning was his work.

It is alleged by the authorities that Zimmerman, upon whose clothing paris green is said to have been found when suspicion pointed towards him, placed the poison in the "mash" which is made up in large quantities and then distributed it at feeding time in the morning.

The chickens began to drop and die Tuesday. Immediate analysis was made of the contents of crops of the birds with the result that arsenical poison was found in large quantities. Inspection of the feed showed that a large quantity in storage had been poisoned in like manner.

So great has the death rate among the chickens become that special precautions for burial of the bodies have been made on the farm, where they are thrown in a large trench and immediately covered with earth.

The act will ruin the season's business of the Morris farm, though efforts will be made to immediately re-establish the business from surviving birds in other sections.

### Mother Risks Life To Save Her Child

Danbury, Aug. 17.—Mrs. Joseph Bacher, of New York, narrowly escaped death while trying to rescue her infant son from a burning house in Milly Brook district, west of this city, last night. Mrs. Bacher, who was visiting there, dropped a lighted lamp at the head of a stairway leading to the room where her child was asleep and her clothes took fire as she carried the child down the burning stairs. The house, which was owned by Joseph Buzide, a farmer, was destroyed with a loss of \$2,500.

### Registrars Believe Population 175,000

The registrars of voters are inclined to believe that the population of Bridgeport is nearer 175,000 than 147,000, the latter being the estimate of the publishers of the new city directory. The canvass of the registrars for the voting lists is not complete but the canvass to date indicates that the lists of voters will be increased from 18,779 last year, to about between 25,000 and 27,000 this year. The canvass of the registrars discloses many names and many voters who are not in the city directory.

### THE WEATHER

Forecast: Generally fair tonight and Friday.

Failing to Gain Concessions From Representatives of Railroads in White House Conference, President Wilson Invites Highest Officials of Roads to Discuss the Situation With Him.

Financiers May Be Brought to Washington Finally, If All Other Efforts to Mediate Fail—Employees Refuse to Arbitrate Some Questions, While Railroads Hold Out For Arbitration.

Washington, Aug. 17.—President Wilson today invited the presidents of the principal railroads of the country to come to Washington immediately to confer with him on the threatened strike.

Pending their arrival he does not plan to see the committee of the managers here with whom he has been meeting.

President's Invitation to Officials The President sent the following telegram to the leading railroad presidents:

"Discussion of the matters involved in the threatened railroad strike has reached a point which makes it highly desirable that I should personally confer with you at the earliest possible moment and with the presidents of any other railways affected who may be immediately accessible. I hope you can make it convenient to come to Washington at once."

The President's action in asking for the conference with railroad presidents themselves is interpreted as meaning that the managers' committee had refused finally to concede the 8-hour day as the President's plan proposed, and the question now is to be taken up with the heads of the railroads themselves.

How the Situation Stands The situation as it stood today was this:

The railroads flatly refused to concede the eight-hour day but are willing to arbitrate the question and all others before any tribunal the President or the men may decide upon.

The men are willing to arbitrate some questions under certain conditions but are unwilling to arbitrate others. . . .

This afternoon at 3 o'clock the President will present his plan to the full committee of 40 chairmen of the employees' union, in the hope of getting them to approve it. The result will be presented to the railroad presidents later.

Early this morning, Secretary Tumulty telephoned to Daniel Willard, president of the Baltimore & Ohio, regarding the invitation to the railroad presidents to come to the White House, and Mr. Willard said he would do everything possible to arrange a conference.

In case President Wilson finds any of the railroad presidents cannot speak absolutely for their roads he may invite to the White House the financiers who control them. Officials said today that the President wants to deal with the "ultimate authority" on both sides in order that negotiations may be considered here.

Immediate acceptance of the President's plan appeared improbable. The railroads insist on arbitration and the employees are equally resolute that they be conceded pay for overtime work equivalent to one and a half times the usual rate.

Representatives of the railroads were prepared to maintain that the entire principle of arbitration is at stake. They also were mindful that when they conceded pay for overtime work equivalent to one and a half times the usual rate, the commission estimated that when the railroads grant higher wages without arbitration they might not present that as reasons for higher tariffs.

Among the managers it was pointed out that the presidents have been constantly advised of the negotiations with President Wilson and the feeling prevails that the attitude of the railroad heads was now the same as the managers' committee, although no one could forecast what effect a personal conference with the President would have. The railroad presidents are expected to make a strong plea for preservation of the principal of arbitration.

In preparation for the conference between President Wilson and the 640 employees, chairs were placed today in the East Room of the White House, the scene of many notable events.

Another indication of the delicacy of the situation was seen in the decision at the White House not to make public the President's remarks to the men at this time at least. "It was first intended to publish the President's statement and then his statement to the managers, thus laying the contest before the high court of public opinion. It was believed that while there was hope of moving the committee of managers by appeals to the presidents or the financiers, the negotiations would be kept confidential."

PARSONS TO ATTEND.

New York, Aug. 17.—The railroad presidents of the country have accepted President Wilson's invitation to come to Washington to confer with him on the railroad strike situation. Several will leave this city for the national capital at 4 o'clock this afternoon and another delegation will leave from Chicago.

Those who will leave from New York include E. P. Parsons, a vice-president of the New Haven road. Daniel Willard, president of the Baltimore & Ohio, and who has often been spokesman of the railroad presidents on other occasions, which have taken them to Washington, is understood to be on his way.

BRITISH MAKE GAINS.

London, Aug. 17.—The British have made another advance on the Somme front. Official announcement was made today that the line has been pushed forward west and southwest of Guillemont.

ARTILLERY DUEL RAGES.

Paris, Aug. 17.—A violent artillery duel is in progress north of Maurepas, in the Somme region, says the war office statement today. There were no infantry attacks during the night.

On the Somme front the enemy made no attempt at a counter-attack during the night, the statement adds.

13,000 MINERS GO OUT

Shamokin, Pa., Aug. 17.—About 13,000 members of the United Mine Workers' organization, engaged principally at Colliers, operated by the Susquehanna Coal Company and the Philadelphia & Reading Coal & Iron Company between here and Mount Carmel, went on strike today to compel all employees to become members of the union. It is estimated that at least 500 miners were not affiliated with the union.

AUSTRIAN AERO IN RAIDS OVER ITALIAN LINES

Bombard Enemy Positions With Good Effect—British Report Gains.

Berlin, Aug. 17.—Another raid by Austrian airmen on positions behind the Italian line in the Isonzo region is announced in an Austro-Hungarian Admiralty statement today, as follows:

"An Austro-Hungarian naval aeroplane squadron on the night of August 14-15 most successfully bombarded a hostile battery at the mouth of the Isonzo and military establishments at Ronchi, Vermigliano and Sella."

"Full hits were obtained and fires were observed to break out. All the aeroplanes returned undamaged in spite of the most violent shelling."